

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 03104 150459Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 L-03 H-01 PA-01 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /034 W

-----041646 150504Z /20

O R 110940Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5632

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 3104

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 3104 VICE 4004)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, WZ

SUBJECT: HIT AND RUN INCIDENT INVOLVING SWAZI DIPLOMAT

REFS: STATE 226187, STATE 228318

1. OWING TO INVOLVEMENT OF GOS OFFICIALS IN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, FIRST CONTACT I WAS ABLE TO MAKE ON REFTELS WAS WITH PAUL SHABANGU, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER, WHOM I FINALLY REACHED AT HOME 1530 SATURDAY. I TOLD SHABANGU HE SHOULD ALERT PRIMIN, SO LATTER COULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO SUBJECT IF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFERRED IT TO PRIMIN ON MONDAY. SHABANGU AGREED AND SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO APPROACH PRIMIN DIRECTLY BECAUSE PRIMIN WOULD NOT ACT IN ANY CASE UNTIL PRESENTED WITH FONAFFS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. THE ONLY DECISION-MAKING OFFICIAL IN FONAFFS IS PERMANENT SECRETARY SETH DLAMINI; MINISTER OF STATE WAS SACKED IN EARLY JULY AND THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR AMERICAN/EUROPEAN AFFAIRS LEFT SEVERAL MONTHS

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BEFORE THAT. I WAS UNABLE TO REACH DLAMINI UNTIL I FOUND HIM 1600 SUNDAY CLEARING LAND ON HIS FARM IN THE BOONDOCKS. AFTER MY EXPOSITION OF THE THE CABLES, DLAMINI AGREED TO DRIVE TO MBABANE TO PHONE AMBASSADOR KUNENE. SINCE FONAFFS IS LOCKED ON WEEKENDS, I INVITED DLAMINI TO PHONE FROM CHANCERY. HE PHONED KUNENE RESIDENCE AT 1650 SUNDAY BUT UNFORTUNATELY ONLY MRS. KUNENE WAS

HOME. SHE SAID AMBASSADOR HAD SENT TELEX TO FONAFFS REQUESTING GUIDANCE BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY. DLAMINI SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY RECENT CABLE TRAFFIC BECAUSE OF HAVING BEEN AWAY FROM THE OFFICE. HE TOLD MRS. KUNENE HE WOULD CALL AMBASSADOR MONDAY MORNING FOR FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF EVENTS, SO HE (DLAMINI) COULD REPORT FORMALLY TO PRIMIN.

3. AFTER PHONING, DLAMINI TOLD ME HE WAS UNHAPPY THAT AMBASSADOR HAD NOT TAKEN MORE INITIATIVE IN SETTLING THIS AFFAIR, WHICH HE CALLED "AN ADMINISTRATIVE NOT POLITICAL MATTER." I URGED THAT AMBASSADOR BE INSTRUCTED TO LIFT DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY IF DRIVER HAD BEEN ENTITLED TO IT. WE BOTH AGREED ON NEED FOR SPEEDY ACTION TO AVOID FURTHER ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN WASHINGTON. FYI, DLAMINI DISPLEASED THAT QUESTION OF WHO WAS DRIVING IS NOT RESOLVED. HE SAYS NKAMBULE HAD BARELY LEARNED TO DRIVE WHEN HE LEFT FONAFFS FOR WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT. DLAMINI DOES NOT KNOW PRINCE DAVID.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780982/aaaacprk.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 835e7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 STATE 226187, 78 STATE 228318, 78 MBABANE 3054
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TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, AFSP, WZ
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